

Appl. No. 10/606,871

Amdt. dated February 25, 2005

Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to recite that the base and the at least two elastic plates lie at least substantially in a flat plane. This is supported, for example, at page 6, lines 16-28 of the specification as well as in Figures 3, 4, 6 and 7. New claims have been added to round out the potential scope of protection. Support for new claims 20-22 can be found in Figures 2 through 5. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Obata et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,145,407. In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every claimed element. Obata et al. fail to do so.

In particular, independent claims 1 and 6 (and thus claims 2-5 and 7-10 depending therefrom) have been amended to require that the base and the at least two elastic plates lie at least substantially in a flat plane. Obata et al. do not describe this, as it is clear that the head and legs of the Obata et al. device (possibly corresponding to Applicants' claimed base and at least two elastic plates) do not lie in a flat plane. Rather, Obata et al. show (see for example Figure 2) a head 40 that lies in a first plane, and legs 50 that lie in a second plane that is perpendicular to the first plane.

Applicants note that as a result of having the base and the at least two elastic plates at least substantially within a flat plane, a number of manufacturing advantages can be realized, as described at page 9, lines 8-20 of the instant specification. Obata et al. fail to describe or suggest this feature, instead describing a bulky fastener. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Obata et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,145,407, in view of Hashiguchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,340,321. Obata et al. are distinguished above as failing to describe the claimed requirement (see claim 11) that the base and the at least two elastic plates lie at least substantially in a flat plane. While the Examiner relies upon Hashiguchi et al. to suggest inclusion of solder, Applicants note that Hashiguchi et al. fail to remedy the noted shortcomings of Obata et al. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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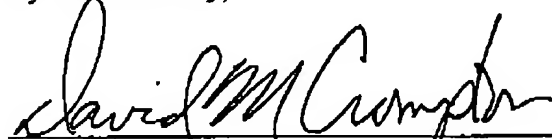
In light of the amendments and comments presented herein, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If a phone conference is believed necessary to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the above discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshiaki Kato et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: _____

2/25/05

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